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**PATENT** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Appl. No. : Unknown )	
PCT Appl No.: WO 01/20315 A1 )	
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Filed: Herewith )	
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For : ELECTROPHORESIS )	
APPARATUS AND A )	1
METHOD OF USING SAME ) /ン/	, I
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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

An apparatus for rehydrating and for performing electrophoresis on a gel strip 1. including:

a tray defining at least one trough configured to receive a gel strip, said trough defining a centrally located rehydration area and an electrode area disposed either side of the rehydration area;

means for delimiting the rehydration area of the trough from the electrode area; and

electrode means including contact points adapted to contact either the gel strip in the electrode areas near the first and second end of the gel strip or a conducting or current carrying electrode bridge material which is in contact with the gel strip in the electrode